

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 29, 1986

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 86-95

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY COUNSELS

SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT FOR COURT-ORDERED GUARDIANSHIP REPORTS

REFERENCE: ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 80-59 UPDATE
ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 82-107 UPDATE

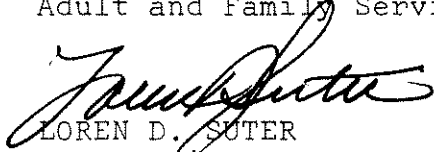
As a result of recent requests for policy clarification on reimbursement for court-ordered guardianship studies, state policy on this issue has been reviewed and updated to reflect current federal and state statutory provisions.

County welfare departments (CWDs) may claim Child Welfare Services (CWS) reimbursement for the performance of guardianship studies only for children who have open CWS cases. State and federal funding for guardianship studies and similar court-ordered services in furtherance of permanency planning goals is available only for children who are recipients of CWS.

Activities that are similar in nature but which also are not CWS reimbursable include court-ordered guardianship studies or investigative activities related to child custody disputes in marriage dissolution proceedings and other court-ordered guardianship reports regarding children who are not CWS recipients. These activities are authorized or mandated by other provisions of law and are not authorized as CWS under authority of WIC Section 16500, et seq.

Prior to enactment of PL 96-272 and state enabling statute, SB 14 (Chapter 978:1982), the performance of all guardianship suitability investigations was considered "part of Child Welfare Services" (All County Letter No. 80-59). However, SB 14 revised WIC Section 16500, et seq., to limit authority for delivery of CWS services to situations involving abused, neglected or exploited children. Therefore, State and federal CWS funds available for the provision of services to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect or exploitation of children may be used only for those activities. Costs of guardianship studies ordered by the Probate Court for children who are not recipients of CWS due to abuse/neglect are not reimbursable by CWS funds and are to be reported as county only costs.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to your
Adult and Family Services Operations Consultant at (916) 445-0623.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Loren D. Suter".

LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

cc: CWDA